

**Glenda Wiles**

**From:** Marcia Diamond [hummingbirdxing@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2008 4:39 PM

**To:** Glenda Wiles

**Subject:** Kootenai Creek Rd

To whom it may concern,

I live just off of Kootenai Creek Road which is the main entrance to the Kootenai Creek Trail Head, one of the most popular hiking trails in the Bitterroot. The dust produced by vehicles traveling to and from the trail head on this unpaved road is a health hazard and has become extremely problematic for those living within 500 feet of the road.

In fact, A 1993 U.S. Department of Transportation study by civil engineering professor Thomas Sanders and then-graduate student Jonathan Addo of the Colorado State University cites a 1983 Forest Service estimate that for every vehicle traveling one mile of unpaved roadway once a day, every day for a year, one ton of dust is deposited along a corridor extending 500 feet out on either side of the median. In the 1 December 1999 issue of Environmental Science & Technology, Ann Miguel and Glen Cass, environmental engineering professors at the California Institute of Technology, identified at least 20 different human allergens, including molds and pollen, in dust stirred up from paved roads. Miguel says results would be similar, if not worse, on unpaved roads, especially if it's a frequently traveled unpaved road in an agricultural area, where pollens and other plant matter would be prevalent on roadways. Other substances found in lesser amounts include rubber breakdown particles from tires and asbestos particles from brakes.

Particles larger than 2.5 microns can lodge in the upper respiratory area, where they may cause severe irritation. Effects may be especially pronounced in infants, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions such as asthma. Particles this size may also be linked to some respiratory cancers.

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I am aware that paving construction will begin soon on Hwy 93 at Kootenai Creek Rd and going south. I would like to petition the County to pave Kootenai Creek Road at the same time. Please let me know what the citizens of Kootenai Creek Road, Stevensville need to do in order for the County act on our request.

Thank you.

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**Marcia Diamond**

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